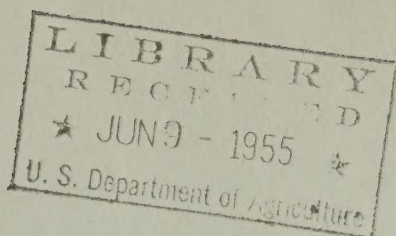


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# HYBRID PEONIES

By  
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Clinton  
New York

1955-57

THE STRAINS offered here are arranged roughly by season, beginning with the earliest.

My herbaceous hybrids advance the peony season by two to three weeks, beginning here about May 12. The last of them, the lobatas, begin in early June, like the great race of albifloras, and bloom for two or three weeks. Tree peonies usually bloom the last week in May and on into June, when the lutea hybrids start, followed at last by *P. lutea* itself.

In general, lower prices indicate my older introductions, or those of which I have considerable stock. Higher prices indicate new varieties or very short stock.

Some familiar names have been withdrawn from this list; I hope to accumulate enough stock of these to offer them again later. Actually all my hybrids are always in short supply, so it may save time if you will indicate second choices, or even grant me the privilege of substituting the most closely similar plant of equal value. Many of my friends leave it partly or entirely up to me to choose plants for them, and of course I am glad to do this. Every care will be taken.

Peony shipping season is September and October. Transportation is prepaid, and recipient notified at the time. Cash should accompany order.

*Directions for Planting and Growing Peonies  
will be found on the inside back cover.*



# Herbaceous Peonies

## HYBRIDS

Grouped according to their parent species and arranged roughly in order of blooming season. Flowering dates are those of my latitude, and are only approximate.

These hybrids consist of crosses not only between *P. albiflora* (also called *P. lactiflora*) and *P. officinalis* (the usual hybrid peonies of our shows) but between other species, many not hitherto used, obtained from Botanical Gardens and collectors in Europe and Asia.

The results have not always proved attractive in color or in habit; but of the many hundreds made, I have chosen the following list; they make, I hope, a considerable contribution of hardy, and lovely, and above all entirely new and distinct plants, which I think you will find worthy of the best company you can give them in your garden. It is my hope that they may spread into everybody's garden, lengthening by weeks the season of our peonies, and adding new interest to the growing of a beloved flower.

### **Woodwardi x tenuifolia**

**Earlybird.** Sold as a strain. Among the first peonies to bloom. Handsome little plants with finely-cut foliage and an abundance of bright crimson flowers. \$5

### **Mlokoewitschi x tenuifolia**

**Playmate.** Sold as a strain; includes No. 6941. Small bright rosy flowers held high above the fern-like foliage. Lovely garden plants. \$5

### **The reciprocal cross: tenuifolia x Mlokoewitschi**

**Gwenda.** Second generation. Exquisite tea-rose goblets; rosy edged, fading to ivory. Sets seed. \$20

**Daystar.** Third generation. Single goblets of clear pale yellow. About 3 ft. tall, with red stems and handsomely pointed leaves. Sets seed. \$25

### **Mlokoewitschi x macrophylla, second generation**

**Nova.** A strain. Flowers clear pale yellow, but foliage like *macrophylla*: large, broad and glossy. About 2½ ft. tall, these are good growers and set seed well, many of the offspring coming in pale yellow shades. \$20

## **Officinalis x decora alba**

**Diantha.** An adorable early salmon-pink. About 2 ft. high, with light grey-green leaves. \$10

## **Albiflora x macrophylla (mid-May to mid-June)**

**Chalice.** Large pure shimmering white flowers with long silky stamens, on heavy stems about 3 ft. tall. Immense dark glossy leaves. Conspicuously fine. Sets a few seeds; the offspring carry on her beauty. \$15

**Celia.** Semi-double with tuft of petals in the center. Color light flesh with a yellow cast. \$5

**Seraphim.** A strain. Shining white single, only less lovely than Chalice, and very floriferous. \$5

**Shell Pink.** Single flowers of palest sea-shell pink, with faint cast of yellowish green. \$5

Of the following, Fantasia, Serenade, Rose Crystal and 4992 are second generation plants of the above cross. The remaining three are back crosses, using pollen of an albiflora-macrophylla hybrid on an albiflora variety.

**Fantasia.** Single pale mauve-pink, crinkled petals of fine substance. Tall crimson stems. \$10

**Serenade.** Palest flush, with magnificent spray of golden stamens. \$10

**Rose Crystal.** Ivory petals, twisted and pointed like cut-glass, edged and veined rosy. Crimson stamens and filaments. Exquisite. \$20

**4992.** This plant has strongly fertile pollen and sets abundant seed year after year; it is offered here especially to those interested in hybridizing. \$5

**Garden Peace.** Great single white flowers, several to a stem, with gold and crimson centers. Its side blooms give it a very long season. The dark red stems are so tall they may need a stake. Early June. \$20

**Requiem.** Another lovely waxy-white single, about one week after Garden Peace. Finest substance and foliage. \$20

**Evensong.** The erect, level flowers open, still and lovely, about mid-June. Palest flush at first, they become pure white. Dark foliage. \$20

## **Albiflora x Wittmanniana**

**Elizabeth Cahn.** Delicate white goblet. Aristocratic foliage, elegantly pointed. Last week in May. \$5

## **Albiflora x decora**

**Reward.** This darkest maroon single is among the earliest of reds to bloom; last week in May. \$5



## Triple Hybrids

An albiflora variety crossed by a second generation tenuifolia x Mloko-sewitschi hybrid. These bloom just after the middle of May.

**Roselette.** Prettily-formed large flowers of light rose pink. Sets seed. \$15

**Rushlight.** Clear ivory cream; gold center. \$15

**Sprite.** Delicious apple-blossom flowers; ivory white, with palest rosy edges. \$15

**Veitchi x Emodi**  
**Early Windflower**

These two strains are almost exactly alike except that one blooms about May 20, the other about a week later.

**Beresowskyi x Emodi**  
**Late Windflower**

The plants are graceful and unusual. The flowers, like white anemones, are slightly

nodding and are borne on tall stems. The foliage is fern-like and handsome. These set no seed. Each, \$10

## New Quadruple Hybrids

These are my newest race of all, combining four species: albiflora, officinalis, macrophylla, and Mloko-sewitschi. The latter gives them all a golden-ivory sheen, putting them in a class by themselves. A very fine, early, vigorous strain; others will be introduced later. They flower the last week of May and into early June. Some produce a few seeds. Each, \$25

**Bright Diadem.** Flowers not large, but a very deep golden ivory with greenish tints.

**Circlet.** A tawny cream with warmer tones at the base, and golden center. Petals veined rosy outside, and occasionally rosy edged.

**Early Daybreak.** Old ivory, flushed rose. Very sturdy grower.

**Firelight.** Deep bright rose pink with deeper flares and crimson stigmas. Gold center. Fine substance.

**Lady Gay.** Large 6-inch ivory flowers, very brilliantly flared bright rose; flamboyant.

**Rose Noble.** Palest ivory rose, flared. Crimson stigmas and filaments.

**Starlight.** Ivory-yellow, 5-6 inches wide, sometimes faintly flushed. Small creamy center. Fine.

## Corsica x macrophylla

**Picotee.** The long milk-white petals are rounded and edged deep magenta-pink. Crimson stems. Charmingly dwarf (2 ft.) plant. Easily grown, and sets seed. \$15

## **Albiflora x Ozieri alba**

**Halcyon.** A very early strain; opens the last week of May, palest flush, becoming pure white, of finest kid-like substance, with marked purple flares. Crimson stems, stigmas, and filaments make this a most finished plant. \$15

## **Albiflora x coriacea**

**Lavender.** A strain. Beautiful pale lilac, becoming more delicate as the flower ages. May prove hard to grow. \$15

## **Triple Hybrids, combining albiflora, officinalis and macrophylla.**

**Campagna.** Pure white, with gold and green center; no pink tones at all. Lovely plant. \$10

**Herald.** Great shining bright scarlet single. \$10

**Pageant.** A spectacular 4 ft. tall single pink with an immense splash of long gold stamens. The heart alone is 4 inches across. \$15

## **Officinalis x lobata**

These plants have a much better habit and stature than lobata itself and the flowers approximate the brilliant color of lobata. Being hybrids between closely related forms, they are fertile.

**Scarlet Tanager.** (Officinalis rubra plena x lobata) Tall plants with blooms of true vermilion red. \$10

**Little Dorrit.** Small flowers of very unusual color: salmon with bright red flares. Outside petals light pink. Charming dwarf plants. \$10

## **Albiflora x single officinalis: "Challenger" group**

**Challenger.** Tall dark crimson with bright yellow anthers. Has received many awards. \$5

**Defender.** Very large dark mahogany crimson, with a mass of silky stamens. Both about June 6. \$5

(Buccaneer, Liberator and Mariner available later.)

**Other hybrids between albiflora and forms of officinalis.** Late May into early June.

**Bordeaux.** Large claret single; huge center of yellow stamens and petaloids. Showy. \$5

**Cavatina.** Deep bright rose, 7 inches across, with a great golden heart. \$5



**Emblem.** Single deep lusterless red of fine substance. \$5

**Legion of Honor.** Flaming cherry scarlet, with very light green foliage. \$5

**Mid May.** Great rounded petals of palest apple-blossom pink; fine center. Tall, lovely plant. \$15

**Postilion.** Enormous flowers of deep scarlet crimson. Very brilliant semi-double flat cup. \$15

**Rosy Wreath.** Single cup of clear, even, rose pink. Crepe-paper texture. \$5

**Sanctus.** Second generation. A new offering. Single white, blended faint blush, with center of gold. \$15

## **Albiflora x Otto Froebel**

Gaily-held flowers in fresh shades of pink, these are charming garden plants.

**Honor and Mercy.** Bright rose pink with paler flares, these gay flowers start about June 1, just ahead of the great strain of "lobatas." Each, \$5

**Good Will.** Almost double, deep cerise. \$5

**Lotus Bloom.** Tall semi-double light pink. \$15

**Victoria Lincoln.** Clear pink, large and fully double when established. \$20

## **Albiflora x lobata (the "lobatas")**

This race of hybrids contains many beautiful pink and red colors we have so long desired in the Chinese peonies—salmon, coral, rose, and deep cherry pinks to clear bright crimsons, with no hint of purple and never a bad color in all the hundreds that have bloomed. I think this is the most brilliant and effective strain of hybrid herbaceous peonies yet produced. These bloom through the first half of June. They set hardly any seed.

**Bravura.** Shining light crimson with outer white flares. Charmingly crinkled and of fine form. \$5

**Cardinal's Robe.** Shining scarlet single. Very striking color. \$15

**Carina.** Shining scarlet semi-double. \$20

**Cecilia.** Light bright pink, deeper at the base. Flared lighter inside and out. \$10

**Claudia.** Semi-double; opens light cherry, becoming pale salmon pink. Golden heart. 3½ ft. stems. \$15

**Constance Spry.** Magnificent deepest bright cherry, semi-double. \$20

**Coralie.** Lovely single lusterless coral pink. Petals slightly crinkled. \$10

**Elizabeth Foster.** Single deep bright rose pink. Large and brilliant. A lovely plant. \$5

**Ellen Cowley.** Deepest bright cherry, like Nadia and Sophie. Semi-double close rosette. \$5

**Gillian.** Like the popular Janice, but even paler, becoming silvery. Single. Early. \$5

**Grace Root.** Clear light salmon pink cup-shaped single. \$10

**Great Lady.** High-held single blooms of gay deep shining pink. Rounded petals. 3½ ft. stems. \$10

**Heritage.** Lusterless crimson red; magnificent rose-bomb double. \$15

**Janice.** Tall and erect, with good-sized salmon pink single flowers. Vigorous stems. Early. \$10

**Julia Grant.** Semi-double; very fine clear pink. \$15

**Laura Magnuson.** Large cup-shaped clear bright rose, semi-double. Late for this strain. \$20

**Lovely Rose.** "Creamy" rose pink, unique color in this strain. Should be better known. \$10

**Ludovica.** Very large semi-double clear rose pink, with prettily rounded petals. \$10

**Montezuma.** Bright crimson goblets with two rows of shining rounded petals. Tall heavy stems. \$10

**Nadia.** Deepest bright cherry wide-open blooms. Color similar to Constance Spry and Sophie. \$10

**Nathalie.** Magnificent flat bloom, semi-double or more. Intense clear rose smooth-edged petals. \$10

**Paladin.** Very glowing carmine-red, loosely semi-double. The most cerise of the reds of this strain. \$5

**Red Red Rose.** Brilliant satin rounded bloom of intense crimson scarlet. Semi-double. \$10

**Rose Garland.** (The cross reversed: lobata x albi-flora.) Deep rose single; rather dwarf. Award of Merit, Royal Horticultural Society, England, 1954. \$10

**Skylark.** High-held single blossoms of clear bright rose pink. \$5

**Sophie.** Deepest bright cherry semi-double; fine stems. Leaves slightly furled. Popular variety. \$10

**Your Majesty.** Vivid scarlet red flowers. Imposing erect carriage; 4 ft. stems. \$15



## **Albiflora x Emodi**

**White Innocence.** Our tallest plant (4½ ft.). Each graceful swaying stem has several pure white single blooms, with greenish centers. Mid-June. Unique and lovely. \$20

## **Varieties of uncertain parentage**

**Horizon.** Palest flesh single. Huge center. Tall; quite outstanding. Early June. \$10

**Mermaid.** A new offering. Large delicate single flowers, palest lavender. Charming and unique. \$20

**Patriot.** Bright crimson goblets held high. Pure color; tall, vigorous plant. \$10

## **HERBACEOUS PEONY SPECIES**

Besides the five offered by name, listed in order of blooming season, I have a very few plants of some other species. Please write me if you are interested.

**macrophylla.** Flowering about May 12, this vies each year with *P. tenuifolia* for the honor of opening the peony season. *Macrophylla* has white goblet flowers about 3 inches wide, and the largest of all peony leaves, highly glossy, with typical odor of box. \$10

**tenuifolia.** The old fern-leaved peony, with the most fine-cut of all peony foliage and small gay flowers. I offer **rubra** and **rubra plena** (crimsons) and **rosea** (single pink). Each, \$5

**Mlokozewitschi.** The only truly yellow herbaceous peony, and one of the most beautiful of hardy plants. Foliage is lusterless grey-green. Though not certain to succeed, it should be tried in every garden. \$10

**Emodi.** The lovely Himalayan species, with small nodding white flowers; handsome fern-like foliage. \$5

**lobata (officinalis lobata).** I am not sure that what I offer as *lobata* is exactly the plant used in the making of my *lobata* hybrids. In any case, *lobata* is well worth growing for itself, with typically brilliant vermilion flowers on dwarf plants. Early June. \$5

# Tree Peonies

## JAPANESE TREE PEONIES

I have a large stock of fine named varieties of this most beautiful of hardy plants, and a few seedlings of my own raising, specially selected, and numbered. Grafts of these plants (on herbaceous understock) are available at varying prices, depending on size and quality. Kindly order **by color only**: white (sometimes flared); light pink; deep pink; dark purple. Your graft will bear a label with its Japanese name or its seedling number. 4-8 years old, \$20 and \$25 Unnamed, or younger (2-4 years old) named grafts. \$10, \$15 and \$20

## TREE PEONY SPECIES

**Paeonia lutea** is the wild yellow tree peony from Southern China. Flowers are cup-shaped, about 2 inches wide, like enlarged buttercups, with a lily-like fragrance. They vary from clear yellow through tones of orange, equally attractive. These set abundant seed. Mature plants, \$5

**Paeonia Delavayi.** Like *P. lutea*, but reddish to deep maroon in tone. Also sets seed. Mature plants, \$5

**Paeonia lutea var. Ludlowi.** I hope in a few years to have sufficient stock of this fine new variety to be able to offer it. Taller than *P. lutea*, with larger, more open flowers held well up above the leaves, this plant will make a splendid addition to our gardens, and may prove superior for hybridizing.

## TREE PEONY SEEDS

Although I have too few seeds to be able to offer them in quantity for sale, I can supply a few, gratis, to those of my customers who may be interested in raising them. I can furnish lutea-and-Delavayi mixed; or Japanese tree peonies, mixed. The lutea hybrids do not set seed.



## TREE PEONY HYBRIDS or LUTEA HYBRIDS

Crosses of the Japanese Tree Peony (*P. moutan* or *suffruticosa*) onto *P. lutea* or *P. Delavayi*. These bloom through the first half of June, sometimes longer.

**Argosy.** Introduced in 1928, there is now enough stock of this so that it can be had at moderate cost. Clear sulphur yellow, single, 6-7 inches wide. Plum-colored flares. 2-year grafts, \$7.50 Field plants, \$10 Large plants (if available), \$15 and \$25

Besides Argosy I have some seventy other varieties worthy to be named and put on the market. Because these hybrids fall rather naturally into a few large color groups, I have listed them by color, with the suggestion that when ordering, you either specify a group number only, or allow me some latitude in substituting. Stock is still rather short on all these. I offer well established, two-year grafts or older, usually on their own roots. Each, \$25  
Larger nursery plants (when available) Each, \$50

### 1. THE "ROMAN GOLD" GROUP. Yellow, clear or almost clear. Generally single.

**Amber Moon.** Deep soft amber yellow, edged and flushed crimson. Early, large. Fine garden plant.

**Arcadia.** Pale yellow, flared dark, good carriage.

**Canary.** Dazzling yellow, one of the very brightest. Dramatic heart. Very fine.

**Golden Bowl.** Cup-shaped, intense yellow. Good substance. Flared scarlet.

**Goldfinch.** Delightful small all-yellow flowers. No flares.

**Nankeen.** Pale, with almost black center. Fluted flowers, held well above handsome foliage.

**Narcissus.** All-yellow, with faintest flush in center. Like Daffodil, but earlier and single.

**Roman Gold.** Brilliant warm yellow, flared dark. Fine form. 72 blooms reported on one plant.

**Silver Plane.** Silvery yellow; fine substance. Plum-colored flares. Graceful, level flower.

**Silver Sails.** Palest of the yellows, faintly flushed and flared. Exquisite.

**Stardust.** The plant covers itself with small yellow flowers, held well. Charming.

**Wings of the Morning.** Pale large flowers with greenish tones; flared dark. Petals crinkled.

**2. THE "GOLDEN HIND" GROUP.** Yellow, clear or almost clear. Generally semi- or fully double.

**Age of Gold.** Flat rosette of soft cream gold. Like a ruffled camellia flower.

**Alhambra.** Clear warm gold, crinkled. Dark flares.

**Celestial.** Pale yellow, edged palest rose. Almost black flares. Bronze foliage.

**Daffodil.** Small perfect rosette of purest daffodil yellow, without flares. Lovely.

**Gold Dust.** Floriferous plant; many small flowers with creamy hearts.

**Golden Hind.** Superb fluffy 7-8 inch blooms of bright yellow, flared dark. Very fine variety.

**Golden Isles.** Brilliant color; almost black flares.

**Gold Sovereign.** Exquisite bright gold flat rosette with golden heart.

**High Noon.** Like a semi-double Argosy. Fine bright lemon yellow; good carriage.

**Hyperion.** Light brilliant cup-shaped flowers, dark flares. Late for this strain.

**Nereid.** Palest yellow, open-faced, with silvery edges.

**Orion.** Brilliant warm gold, flared. Dark foliage.

**Spanish Gold.** Clear double yellow; brilliant.

**3. THE "TEA ROSE" GROUP.** Generally yellow, but tinted and suffused rose. Single to double.

**Angelet.** Yellow delicately edged rose, dark center. Flowers fluted, dressy and well held.

**Apricot.** Like its name; dusky rose tones. Silver-grey fern-like foliage. Flowers held high.

**Brocade.** Red-gold single, edged crimson; deep wine flares. Late-blooming plant of much style.

**Countess.** Deep tea-rose single of finest quality.

**Damask.** Semi-double warm gold, dramatic center.

**Festival.** Pale silvery yellow, edged and flushed rose. Almost double flat rosette. Very finished.

**Golden Mandarin.** Old gold, single, with deep wine flares.

**Happy Days.** Many small golden-rosy flowers, edged red. Copper foliage.



**Harvest.** Color of ripe grain. Petals furled and edged rosy. Semi-double. Decorative.

**Holiday.** Full double rosette. Cream, edged rose.

**Marchioness.** Like Countess. Soft yellow, suffused pink; single. Beautiful style and substance.

**Pastoral.** Clear rose tones on pale yellow. The small, single blooms are prettily ruffled.

**Segovia.** Tawny yellow flat single. Unusual.

**Spring Carnival.** Many gold flowers well held; red-edged, with dark flares.

**Sunrising.** Warm brilliant yellow; semi-double, flushed red.

**Tea Rose.** Unusual color of warm light amber. Lovely.

**Titania.** Prettily formed smallish blooms, palest of this group. Very dressy.

**4. THE "BANQUET" GROUP.** Generally red in color, but with yellow undertones. Single to double.

**Banquet.** Shining flat rosette of cherry red. Brilliant dark center.

**Chinese Dragon.** Bright red, fringed and crinkled. Dark flares; large golden center. Semi-double.

**Conquest.** Immense flat strawberry-red flowers, lighted with yellow.

**Hesperus.** Dusky rose overlaid pale yellow. Curious and exquisite color.

**Regent.** Holds well its almost double blooms; reddish, suffused yellow. Handsome.

**Renown.** Bright light copper-red; yellow overtones.

**Right Royal.** Rosy red fringed double. Deep flares. Striking.

**Rose Flame.** Full, lovely flowers; unusual deep rose.

**Summer Night.** Dusky dark rose, "black" flares. Semi-double. Foliage turns bronze in fall.

**Tiger Tiger.** New orange-red color. Semi-double.

**Trophy.** Strawberry red flat double flowers.

**5. THE "BLACK PIRATE" GROUP.** Six darkest crimson, and nine almost black maroon. Single to double.

**Daredevil.** Fine bright lusterless garnet-red single. Large flowers, and fern-like foliage.

**Monitor.** Clear shining almost double crimson; brilliant center.

- Phoenix.** Catawba color; lustrous and unique. Very dark center. Single.
- Red Cloud.** Dusky mahogany red; strange and interesting new color. Semi-double.
- Red Currant.** Large shining crimson semi-double. Gold center and bronzy foliage.
- Red Jade.** Dark red crimson; large single flower well-formed.
- Black Douglas.** Double rosette, almost black maroon. Floriferous.
- Black Panther.** Like Black Pirate, but semi-double. Large blooms with golden centers.
- Black Pirate.** Very dark mahogany red single, with black flares. Dramatic.
- Charioteer.** Deepest maroon with great dark heart. Flat, open bloom. Fine satiny texture.
- Corsair.** One of the darkest of all; single, slightly frilled; flowers well held.
- Heart of Darkness.** Very rare second generation plant of this cross. Almost black, of heavy substance. Not yet available.
- Lombard.** Single deep plum-color; heavy petals, flared black. Fine substance.
- Thunderbolt.** Black crimson single, streaked scarlet. Much style. Floriferous.
- Vesuvian.** Very dark red, fully double, furled and fringed.
- 6. THE "MYSTERY" GROUP.** Ivories, pearled shades, suffused mauves. Single to double.
- Coronal.** Deep ivory and palest yellow, edged and flushed rose. Beautifully furled.
- Harlequin.** Small flowers, blended mauve and ivory cream.
- Infanta.** The one white in the list. Small cup-shaped flowers with marked purple flares.
- Melody.** Single, palest mauve over ivory; wine-colored flares.
- Mystery.** Large flowers. Pearled lavender, with darker shading, varied with palest green.
- Princess.** Semi-double dusky mauve suffused with golden sheen. Pale gold center. A beauty.
- Savage Splendor.** Ivory ground, flashed and edged purple. The twist and flare in the petals make it unique. Flowers well held. Very striking.



## *Brief Directions for Planting and Growing Peonies*

**P**EAONIES are among our least fussy or difficult plants. Their real requirements are: a sunny, open location; plenty of good rich food (and no nearby shrubs or trees to take it from them); and good **drainage**. The importance of drainage cannot be overstated. Standing water encourages disease such as botrytis; there is also the danger of heaving by frost. Soil should be about neutral with a pH of between 6 and 7.

**Preparing the ground for peonies:** there are many ways of doing this. Ground should be well dug in advance. Throw out the soil to a depth of 1½ or 2 feet; throw some back again, mixing with it fine compost, bonemeal, dehydrated manure or commercial fertilizer (very sparingly). Barnyard or animal manure is not widely recommended today. If used, it must be ancient and well-rotted. Now put a protective layer of soil 2 or 3 inches thick; tamp it down firmly. If all this can have been done a year in advance, so much the better.

**Upon receiving peony roots** open and examine at once. Report damage or shortages to shipper. If roots seem dried soak in water a few hours. Peonies, especially small divisions of precious hybrids, prefer being planted soon. If you are unable to plant for 2 or 3 days, keep them moist (not wet) and cool in the packing materials. To keep them 2 weeks or more, heel them into earth. Dig a trench or hole large enough to avoid crowding, lay them in, and cover with earth. They will keep this way a long time if necessary.

**To plant herbaceous peonies:** set the root into the hole previously prepared and dug, so that the buds or "eyes" are 2 inches below ground surface. Deeper may result in failure to bloom. In warm climates, they should be only 1 inch below, or even at the surface. Fill in the hole with good friable loam. A handful of bonemeal worked in now with each plant is good. Tamp down firmly to prevent further settling. Unless autumn rains are frequent, give 1 or 2 quarts of water with each plant.

**For the first winter:** after the ground is frozen, cover with evergreen boughs, loose straw, salt hay or other material, against alternate freezing and thawing. If the ground was well prepared, there should be nothing more to do for your peonies beyond ordinary cultivating and giving a little bonemeal or fertilizer now and then. Ground limestone will keep the soil sweet and nutrients available. Although peonies will pull through amazingly long dry seasons, they will reward you with more growth and bloom if watered.

**Tree Peonies and Lutea Hybrids** like the same treatment, except that they respond well to a half-shaded location (if no tree-roots are involved). These are usually grafted plants. Today, deep planting is recommended. The scion (top part) whether or not it has made any "own roots" may be buried half way, or even more.

At best, however, peonies cannot be expected to give much bloom the first year after setting.

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